THE LITTLE PILGRIM

"Ye will go up by the King's highway"

Vol. XX. JULY 28, 1895. No. 30.

JUST A TRY-STORY.

(Picture Story.)

ONE day mamma was having a young lady caller, and she heard such a very big sigh that she stopped in the middle of a sentence to turn around and see who was feeling so bad about something. And it was nobody but little Susy, this bright-faced little girl on the other side of the page. Only she was anything but bright-faced when her mamma turned to look at her.

"It takes such a long, long, long, long, *long* time to be a big girl!" burst out this unhappy little maid, when even the young lady visitor, who was her big sister Kitty's Sunday-school teacher, could not help smiling, and mamma asked laughingly what was the matter.

"I can't go to Sunny-school till I'm a big girl, and I don't grow a bit bigger any day!" sobbed Susy. "I'm just the very same littleness I was yesterday! I've been measuring!"

"Oh, I think you are big enough!" said the young lady with a look at Susy's mamma to see if she thought so too. "I would n't be a bit afraid to have you come into my class."

"She never could keep still five minutes in this world," said mamma with a shake of her head. "She never did!"

"I tell lovely stories!" laughed the young lady.

"Oh, tell me one!" begged Susy, running over to her and leaning against her knee.

"A try-story!" said mamma, smiling.

"Well, you can sit up on the sofa" —

"And fold my hands!" said Susy, scrambling up and fixing herself as if she were sitting for her picture.

The teacher began right off to tell the loveliest story that Susy ever heard in her life. It was all about some little children who went on a long journey with their fathers and mothers and all their folks, and the wonderful things that happened to them on the way. They had been camping out for a long time near a great mountain, and it is seemed as if God were going to let them stay there always; but one morning they heard the silver trumpets blowing and they saw men taking down the tents, and soon they were all on the march and they went on and on for three whole days.

That was the beginning of the story, and the young lady did not tell Susy then that it was out of the Bible — the very lesson that you are learning about to-day. She wanted it to seem fresh and new to her next Sunday when she told it over to all the little girls together.

Little Susy sat as still as a mouse till the last word was said, and then she only moved to say "Please, *please* tell some more about that story!"

But the young lady said "Next Sunday!" and then she told Susy's mamma that a little girl who could sit as still as that could be trusted to go to Sunday-school every week.

"Maybe!" said mamma, looking as if she were not quite sure. "You must remember that this was only a try-story!"

So she went, and I am glad to tell you that she was good as gold all through the lesson, and when she went home she told her mamma that real stories were just as nice as try-stories and a great deal better.

LESSON STORY.

JOURNEYING TO CANAAN. (Numbers 10:29-36.)

AFTER the commandments were given, there was still a long time to wait before the people could go on their journey. It took a good while to make the tabernacle and all the things for it, and it was more than a year before the Lord told Moses to let the people start out from the mount of Sinai where they had made their camp.

The story of these desert journeys, the setting out and their encampments, is very interesting. You know that the children of Israel were divided up into tribes or companies, each one called by the name of one of the sons of Jacob or of Joseph — Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin. Thirteen tribes in all, but only twelve were counted in making up the army that was to fight for their new home and defend it, for the tribe of Levi was set apart to serve the tabernacle and God did not want that tribe to go out to war. There was a great deal to do to take care of it and attend to its service. Whenever the people started on their journey, the Levites had to take it apart carefully and carry the boards and the curtains and all the different parts of it, and whenever they made their camp all these had to be put together again, and the tabernacle set up; and no one but priests or Levites must touch it or even come near it. There was wood to be cut and brought for the holy altar where sacrifices were burnt, water for the uses of Aaron and his sons, and all the place to be kept clean from the blood of the many sacrifices that the people brought every day.

THE LEVITES CARRYING THE TABERNACLE THROUGH THE WILDERNESS.

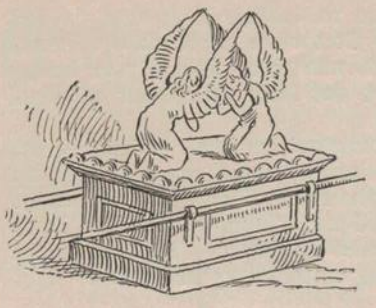
Some of the parts of the tabernacle were carried from place to place in wagons drawn by oxen, but the ark and the golden table and the golden candlestick and the altars were always carried on men's shoulders.

Wherever they went they had the Lord for their guide and leader, and every time they set out Moses cried as the ark moved forward: "Rise up, Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee;" and when they rested he said: "Return, O Lord, unto the many thousands of Israel."

How glad the children must have been when they knew that it was time to go somewhere! Children like traveling and new places, and I like to think how they must have watched for the lifting of the cloud over the tabernacle that was the sign for moving forward.

GOLDEN TEXT. — **Come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel.** — Numbers 10:29.

PICTURE HELPS.



This strange-looking picture is called the ark of the covenant. It was a kind of golden box with two angels on the lid. The angels were made of pure gold; and you can see how they bend toward each other while their wings cover their faces. Inside the box were kept the two tables of stone on which the commandments were written.

The second picture shows two silver trumpets like those made for the priests to use to call the people together or as a signal for setting out on the march.

LESSON QUESTIONS.

1. How long did the children of Israel stay at Sinai?
2. How far did they go on this first journey?
3. How were they led?
4. What went before them to search out a resting place?
5. How was the ark always carried?
6. Who had the care of the tabernacle?
7. How was the tabernacle borne from place to place?
8. How did Moses know when to lead the people forward, and when to stay still in the camp?
9. What were used to give the signal for starting?
10. What did Moses say when they set out?
11. What did he say when they stopped in the march?

KEY to Lesson Questions. 1. More than a year. 2. Three days' journey. 3. By the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. 4. The ark of the covenant. 5. On the shoulders of Levites. 6. The tribe of Levi. 7. It was taken apart and carried in wagons drawn by oxen. 8. When it was time for them to go, God made the cloud rise up from the tabernacle where it had rested since the first day of its setting up. 9. Two silver trumpets. 10. Rise up, Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered. 11. Return, O Lord, unto the many thousands of Israel.

HONOR ROLL.

Beatitudes, Twenty-third Psalm, Ten Commandments, and Names of Books of Old Testament: — Marguerite Perry, Bernice Randall, Christine Braid, Roswell Boutwell, Lawrence Montgomery, Clarence Dutton, Herbert Peak, Allen Brown, Glendy Farnsworth, Harold Loomis, all of Medford, Mass.

MISSING WORDS.

(Find out all these things about the tabernacle.)

Everybody was asked to help with offerings. — Whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, the Lord's offering. — Ex. 35 : 5.

Women helped do some of the work. — All the women that were wise-hearted did . — Ex. 35 : 25. And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom . — Ex. 35 : 26.

The tabernacle had curtains; of fine twined and , and and . — Ex. 36 : 8.

The boards were covered with gold. — He overlaid the boards , and made their rings of for places for the bars, and overlaid the bars with . — Ex. 36 : 34.

Published weekly by Congregational Sunday-School and Publishing Society, Boston, Mass., at 25 cents a year, postage prepaid. Entered at the Post Office in Boston, Mass., as second-class mail matter.